GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3113
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
RAILWAY PROPERTIES DAMAGED BY NAXALITES/ MAOISTS
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxalites/Maoists have damaged and destroyed railway properties worth several crores in States during the year 2007;

(b) if so, the details of properties destroyed or damaged by Naxalites/ Maoists during the same period;

(c) whether the Railways have planned any strategy to protect properties from Naxalites/ Maoists; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): During the year 2007, 34 incidents of damage to Railway property by Naxalites/ Maoists have been reported in which property worth Rs.5,86,59,969/- have been destroyed .

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. "Policing" being a State's subject, prevention, registration and investigation of crime on Railways including running trains is the constitutional responsibility of the States' Governments concerned. However, for better protection of Railway passengers and Railway property, following steps are being taken by Railways :-

1. Close co-ordination is maintained with State Police and Government Railway Police to combat activities of Naxalites/ Maoists in vulnerable sections of affected States.

2. Vulnerable and sensitive sections/ stations of affected States have been identified and patrolling by Government Railway Police, State Police and Railway Protection Force has been intensified.

3. Periodical meetings with State Administrations of affected States and police authorities are being regularly held by Railway Administration to formulate effective joint strategy to combat the problem of Naxal / Maoists attack over Railway system.

4. Sharing of intelligence between RPF, GRP and Intelligence Bureau of affected States have been given priority to combat Naxalites/ Maoists attack on Railways.

5. Guarding of vital installations and bridges has been intensified in vulnerable and sensitive areas.